CLAIMS

1. A method of securely executing on a computer system an application for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, the computer system comprising an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, the method comprising acts of:

(A) executing the application on the computer system, comprising displaying an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to at least one question of the examination, and enabling the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area; and

(B) prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to the user during execution of the application.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein act (A) further comprises an act of displaying the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein prior to performance of act (A), one or more unauthorized processes are executing on the computer system, wherein act (B) comprises an act of terminating the one or more unauthorized processes prior to performing act (A).

4. The method of claim 1, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) configuring the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of configuring the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) prior to executing act (A), disabling any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the following: accessing unauthorized content and displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of disabling any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating unauthorized processes on the computer system.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of configuring one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) during execution of the application, terminating any detected unauthorized processes.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:

(D) recording each detection of an unauthorized process.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein act (B)(1) comprises acts of (a) detecting any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, (b) for each detected process, determining if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and (c) for each detected process, if the detected process is unauthorized, terminating the detected process.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and act (B)(1)(a) comprises an act of periodically accessing the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising an act of:

(C) managing a list of unauthorized processes,

wherein act (B)(1)(b) comprises an act of, for each detected process, comparing the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and wherein act (B)(1)(c) comprises, for each detected process, terminating the detected process if the detected process is on the list.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising an act of:

(C) managing a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system,

wherein act (B)(1)(b) comprises an act of, for each detected process, comparing the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and wherein act (B)(1)(c) comprises, for each detected process, terminating the detected process if the detected process is not on the list.

15. An apparatus for securely executing on a computer system an application for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of

an examination, the computer system comprising an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, the apparatus comprising:

an application execution component to execute the application on the computer system, comprising display logic to display an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to at least one question of the examination, and input logic to enable the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area; and

a security component to prohibit the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to the user during execution of the application.

16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the display logic is operative to display the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the security component comprises process-terminating logic to terminate any unauthorized processes executing on the computer system prior to execution of the application.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the security component comprises application-configuring logic to configure the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the application-configuring logic is operative to configure the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the security component comprises function-disabling logic to disable, prior to execution of the application, any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the following: accessing unauthorized content and displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the function-disabling logic is operative to disable any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating processes on the computer system.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the function-disabling logic is operative to configure one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

23. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the security component comprises process-terminating logic to terminate any detected unauthorized processes during execution of the application.

24. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the security component comprises recording logic to record each detection of an unauthorized process.

25. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the process-terminating logic comprises detection logic to detect any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, determining logic to determine, for each detected process, if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and terminating logic to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is unauthorized.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and wherein the detection logic is operative to periodically access the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

27. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the security component further comprises list-managing logic to maintain a list of unauthorized processes not authorized to be executed on the computer system, the determining logic is operative to compare, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and the terminating logic is operative to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is on the list.

28. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein the security component further comprises list-managing logic to maintain a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system, the determining logic is operative to compare, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and the terminating logic is operative to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is not on the list.

29. An apparatus for securely executing on a computer system an application for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, the computer system comprising an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, the apparatus comprising:

means for executing the application on the computer system, comprising displaying an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to at least one question of the examination, and enabling the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area; and

means for prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to the user during execution of the application.

30. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for executing the application further comprises means for displaying the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

31. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating any unauthorized processes executing on the computer system prior to execution of the application.

32. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

33. The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

34. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for disabling, prior to execution of the application, any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the following: accessing unauthorized content and displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

35. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for disabling any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating unauthorized

processes on the computer system.

36. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

37. The apparatus of claim 29, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating, during execution of the application, any detected unauthorized processes.

38. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
means for recording each detection of an unauthorized process.

39. The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for detecting any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, means for determining, for each detected process, if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and means for terminating each detected process determined to be unauthorized.

40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and the means for prohibiting comprises means for periodically accessing the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

41. The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising :
means for managing a list of unauthorized processes,
wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for comparing, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and wherein the means for prohibiting comprises terminating each detected process that is on the list.

42. The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising :
means for managing a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system,
wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for comparing, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating each detected process that is not on the list.

43. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer-readable signals stored on the computer-readable medium that define instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process of a process of securely executing on a computer system an application for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, the computer system comprising an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, the process comprising acts of

(A) executing the application on the computer system, comprising displaying an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to at least one question of the examination, and enabling the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area; and

(B) prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to the user during execution of the application.

44. A method of securely executing an application on a computer system, the method comprising acts of

(A) executing the application on the computer system; and

(B) prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to a user of the computer system during execution of the application.

45. The method of claim 44, wherein prior to performance of act (A), one or more unauthorized processes are executing on the computer system, and wherein act (B) comprises an act of terminating the one or more unauthorized processes prior to performing act (A).

46. The method of claim 44, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) configuring the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

47. The method of claim 46, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of configuring the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

48. The method of claim 44, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) prior to executing act (A), disabling any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the

following: accessing unauthorized content or displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

49. The method of claim 48, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of disabling any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating processes on the computer system.

50. The method of claim 48, wherein act (B)(1) comprises an act of configuring one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

51. The method of claim 44, wherein act (B) comprises an act of (1) during execution of the application, terminating any detected unauthorized processes.

52. The method of claim 51, further comprising: (D) recording each detection of an unauthorized process.

53. The method of claim 51, wherein act (B)(1) comprises acts of (a) detecting any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, (b) for each detected process, determining if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and (c) for each detected process, if the detected process is unauthorized, terminating the detected process.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and act (B)(1)(a) comprises an act of periodically accessing the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

55. The method of claim 53, further comprising an act of:

(C) managing a list of unauthorized processes not authorized to be executed on the computer system,

wherein act (B)(1)(b) comprises an act of, for each detected process, comparing the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and wherein act (B)(1)(c) comprises, for each detected process, terminating the detected process if the detected process is on the list.

56. The method of claim 53, further comprising an act of:

(C) managing a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system,

wherein act (B)(1)(b) comprises an act of, for each detected process, comparing the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and wherein act (B)(1)(c) comprises, for each detected process, terminating the detected process if the detected process is not on the list.

57. The method of claim 44, wherein the application is for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, the computer system comprises an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, and act (A) comprises acts of displaying an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to the at least one question of the examination, and enabling the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area.

58. The method of claim 57, wherein act (A) further comprises an act of displaying the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

59. An apparatus for securely executing an application on a computer system, the apparatus comprising:

an application-executing component to execute the application on the computer system; and

a security component to prohibit the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to a user of the computer system during execution of the application.

60. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the security component comprises process-terminating logic to terminate any unauthorized processes executing on the computer system prior to execution of the application.

61. The apparatus of claim 59, the security component comprises application-configuring logic to configure the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

62. The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the application-configuring logic is operative to configure the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

63. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the security component comprises function-disabling logic to disable, prior to execution of the application, any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the following: accessing unauthorized content or displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

64. The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the function-disabling logic is operative to disable any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating processes on the computer system.

65. The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the function-disabling logic is operative to configure one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

66. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the security component comprises process-terminating logic to terminate any detected unauthorized processes during execution of the application.

67. The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the security component comprises recording logic to record each detection of an unauthorized process.

68. The apparatus of claim 66, wherein the process-terminating logic comprises detection logic to detect any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, determining logic to determine, for each detected process, if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and terminating logic to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is unauthorized.

69. The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and wherein the detection logic is operative to periodically access the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

70. The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the security component further comprises list-managing logic to maintain a list of unauthorized processes not authorized to be executed on the computer system the determining logic is operative to compare, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and the terminating logic is operative to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is on the list.

71. The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the security component further comprises list-managing logic to maintain a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system, the determining logic is operative to compare, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and the terminating logic is operative to terminate, for each detected process, the detected process if the detected process is not on the list.

72. The apparatus of claim 59, wherein the application is for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, and the computer system comprises an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, and wherein the application-executing component comprises display logic to display an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to the at least one question of the examination, and comprises input-enabling logic to enable the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area.

73. The apparatus of claim 72, wherein the display logic is operative to display the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

74. An apparatus for securely executing an application on a computer system, the apparatus comprising:

means for executing the application on the computer system; and

means for prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to a user of the computer system during execution of the application.

75. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the means for executing the application further comprises means for displaying the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

76. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating any unauthorized processes executing on the computer system prior to execution of the application.

77. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring the application such that unauthorized content cannot be accessed by the application.

78. The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring the application such that unauthorized processes cannot be initiated by the application.

79. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for disabling, prior to execution of the application, any functions on the computer system capable of performing at least one of the following: accessing unauthorized content and displaying unauthorized content to a user of the computer system.

80. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for disabling any functions on the computer system that are capable of initiating unauthorized processes on the computer system.

81. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for configuring one or more programming hooks of the computer system.

82. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating, during execution of the application, any detected unauthorized processes.

83. The apparatus of claim 79, further comprising:
means for recording each detection of an unauthorized process.

84. The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for detecting any processes executing on the computer system during execution of the application, means for determining, for each detected process, if the detected process is authorized to execute on the computer system during execution of the application, and means for

terminating each detected process determined to be unauthorized.

85. The apparatus of claim 84, wherein the computer system comprises a registry that lists all processes currently executing on the computer system, and the means for prohibiting comprises means for periodically accessing the registry on the computer system at predefined intervals to ascertain the processes currently executing on the computer system.

86. The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising :

means for managing a list of unauthorized processes,

wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for comparing, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of unauthorized processes, and wherein the means for prohibiting comprises terminating each detected process that is on the list.

87. The apparatus of claim 84, further comprising :

means for managing a list of processes authorized to be executed on the computer system,

wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for comparing, for each detected process, the detected process to the list of authorized processes, and wherein the means for prohibiting comprises means for terminating each detected process that is not on the list.

88. The apparatus of claim 74, wherein the application is for receiving, from a user of the computer system, at least one response to at least one question of an examination, the computer system comprises an input device and a display device for displaying content to the user, and

wherein the means for executing the application comprises means for displaying an area on the display device in which the user can enter a response to the at least one question of the examination, and means for enabling the user to use the input device to input a response for one or more of the questions into the displayed area.

89. The apparatus of claim 88, wherein the means for executing the application comprises means for displaying the at least one question of the examination on the display device.

90. A computer program product, comprising:

a computer-readable medium; and

computer-readable signals stored on the computer-readable medium that define

instructions that, as a result of being executed by a computer, instruct the computer to perform a process of securely executing an application on a computer system, the process comprising acts of:

(A) executing the application on the computer system; and

(B) prohibiting the computer system from accessing any unauthorized content during execution of the application and from displaying any authorized content to a user of the computer system during execution of the application.